

Nevada Department of Agriculture News Release



**For Immediate Release
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More Surveillance, More West Nile Virus

Reno, July 22, 2005 – Earlier this week a sample swab from an American Crow tested positive for West Nile Virus at the Nevada Department of Agriculture's Animal Disease & Food Safety Laboratory. The dead crow was found in Yerington. Further sampling and testing this week have turned up more positives for WNV.

Two more dead crows from Yerington were tested and proved positive for the virus. A mosquito pool (*Culex erythrothorax*) from Fernley tested positive, and two more mosquito pools (*Culex tarsalis*) from the same area came back "suspect."

Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDOA) staff veterinarian from Elko, Dr. Dan Crowell delivered a sample from Elko County on Wednesday. This sample was from a Lesser Finch (*Carduelis psaltria*) found dead in Spring Creek. The sample was confirmed positive this morning.

"Through surveillance efforts, we continue to see more positive West Nile Virus samples in Nevada," said Dr. Bradford Lee, State Health Officer.

"California reported the sad news today of its first human death this season from West Nile Virus. Along with the recent positive results in Nevada, I cannot stress enough the prevention measures that all of us need to put in place:

- Eliminate standing water
- Wear mosquito repellent containing DEET, Picaridin or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus
- Wear long sleeves, long pants, socks when outdoors, especially during the prime mosquito biting times, dusk to dawn
- Make sure screens on windows and doors are properly secured"

****Note to media – Starting next week NDOA will only be doing weekly updates on WNV. The update will generally occur on Fridays but, as usual, the media may call with questions anytime.***

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